

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, YE
SUBJECT: PORTFOLIO CHANGES

SUMMARY: HAMOUD BEYDAR IS OUT AS GOVERNOR OF IBB AND
MUTAHAR AL-NADHIR'S MINISTRY OF MUNICIPALITIES HAS BEEN
MERGED WITH PUBLIC WORKS, LEAVING BOTH MEN WITHOUT
JOBS. SAID AL HAKIMI HAS ALSO LOST HIS MINISTRY OF SUPPLY
PORTOFOLIO TO MUHAMMAD ABDAL MALIK AL MUTAWAKKIL. EXPLANATION
IS UNCLEAR.

1. ON AUGUST 1, 1976, NEWSPAPER IN SANA ANNOUNCED THAT
HAMOUD BEYDAR, GOVERNOR OF IBB, HAS BEEN REMOVED BY ORDER
OF THE COMMAND COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO RECOMMENDATION OF
PIME MINISTER AND COMMAND COUNCIL MEMBER ABDAL AZIZ ABDAL
GHANI.

2. BEYDAR WAS VERY SURPRISED. HE CLEARLY
HAD NO FOREWARNING AND HAD JUST RETURNED FROM
HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL TROP WITH PRESIDENT TO MADIRA
AND DAMTH, PREVIOUSLY DANGEROUS CITIES IN SOUTHERN PART
OF IBB PROVINCE. HE IS FORMER MILITARY COLLEAGUE OF HAMDI
WHO HAD SERVED WITH HIM ON FIRST AND LARGE MILITARY
COMMAND COUNCIL AFTER COLLAPSE OF ABD AL RAHMAN AL-RRYANI
GOBERNENT IN JUNE 1974. HE IS ZAYDI, COMPETENT AND
ENERGETIC, AND MAN WHO HAD APPARENTLY PUT HIS BAATHI

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PRETENSIONS BEHIND HIM, PARTLY AS RESULT HIS TRIP AS

LEADER GRANTEE TO U.S. EARLIER THIS YEAR. HE WAS CLOSE TO ASNAJ.

3. HE IS BEING REPLACED BY YAHYA MUSLIH, WHO HAS BEEN LACK-LUSTER GOVERNOR OF DHAMAR, ANOTHER FORMER ARMY OFFICER AND REPUTED BAATHI, BUT A TIHAMAN WITH TIES TO LEFTIST UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT HASSAN MAKKI. MUSLIH HAS REPEATEDLY POPPED UP IN HAMDI'S ENTOURAGE, BUT AS CRONY, NOT ADVISOR OR POLITICAL POWER IN HIS OWN RIGHT.

4. SAID AL HAKIMI WAS REPORTEDLY EQUALLY SURPRISED. CHARGE SAW HIM TWO DAYS BEFORE CHANGE. HAKIMI WAS FULL OF TALK OF HIS FUTURE PLANS FOR MINISTRY, REQUESTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS, AND GENERAL CONFIDENCE ABOUT POLITICAL SCENE. HAKIMI IS FORMER FLOSY MEMBER AND, AS SOUTH YEMENI IN POWERFUL YAR ECONOMIC POSITION, HE HAS BEEN CIRITICIZED BY ZAYDIS AND OTHER NORTH YEMENIS AS PROFITING HANDSOMELY ALTHOUGH AN EXILE FROM HIS OWN COUNTRY. THIS KIND OF CRITICISM IS UNFAIR AND UNTRUE BUT POWERFUL UNDERCURRENT IN LOCAL POLITICS. ASNAJ COMPALINS ABOUT IT IN HIS OWN SITUATION.

5. IN ANY CASE, NORTH-SOUTH RIVALRY SERVES FOR MANY AS AN EXPLANATION OF THE HADIMI CHANGE, AS HIS REPLACEMENT, MOHAMMED ABDAL MALIK AL-JUTAWAKKIL, WHO COUSIN OF YAR AMBASSADOR TO U.S., IS ZAYDI FROM NOBLE ("ASHRAF") FAMILY WHICH RELATED TO LAST IMAMS AND COMES FROM FAMOUS BLUE-BLOOD CITY OF SHAHARAH. (IT IS FINE YEMENI TOUCH THAT HE IS ANOTHER REPUTED BAATHI.) HE HAS BEEN RESTLESS AS MINISTER OF TOURISM, WHICH IS TOUGH JOB IN COUNTRY WITHOUT HOTELS. AS MAN OF ABILITY, HE WILL NOW BE TESTED IN SPENDING LARGE SUMS WHICH YARG ALLOCATES TO MINISTER OF SUPPLY FOR BULK PURCHASES OF FOOD AND OTHER COMMODITIES FOR BUFFER STOCKS. UNLIKE HAKIMI, ABDAL MALIK WILL ALSO GET GENERAL SUPERVISION OF FOREIGN TRADE COMPANY, PUBLIC SECTOR VENTURE WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO OFFER COMPETITION TO PRESUMED WILLINGNESS OF RIVATE MERCHANTS TO SET PRICES, CONSPIRE TO CREATE SHORTAGES, ETC. COMPANY HAS BEEN LONG-TIME MONEY LOSER AND BOONDOGGLE.

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6. ANOTHER ABLE SOUTHERNER -- MUTAHAR AL-NADHIR-- HAS HAD HIS MINISTRY OF MUNICIPALITIES PULLED OUT FROM UNDER HIS FEET AND PUT INTO PUBLIC WORKS WHICH IS HEADED BY ABDALLAH AL-KHURSHUMI. THE MOVE MAKES SENSE FROM ORGANIZATIONAL POINT OF VIEW, PROVIDES ANOTHER INTANCE OF A NORTHERNER (KHURSHUMI) ADVANCING AT A SOUTHERNER'S EXPENSE.

COMMENT. IN ALL THESE MOVES, THE EXPLANATIONS ARE NOT VERY CLEAR. ACCORDING TO THE CONSENSUS IN SANA, ALL THE OUTSTED MEN HAD DONE GOOD JOBS, AND ALL WILL GET GOOD JOBS AGAIN, PROBABLY SOON. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE CHANGES PRESAGE A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT EVEN THOUGHT THE BUDGET IS COMPLETED. PRIME MINISTER ABD AL-AZIZ TOLD CHARGE HE WAS PLANNING A PENINSULA FUND-RAISING SWING AFTER THE 'ID (MID-OCTOBER).
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